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James E. Ledbetter  
STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.  
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Post Office Box 34387  
Washington, DC 20043-4387

Dear Mr. Ledbetter:

This is in response to your letter received 08 January 2003 inquiring about the status of U.S. patent application 09/980,490 filed 04 December 2001. The response to the Notification of Missing Requirements filed 17 May 2002 has been matched with the application. The application is being processed by the U.S. Designated/Elected Office and a Notification of Acceptance of Application (Form PCT/DO/EO/903) will soon be issued. All further inquiries about the status of this application may be addressed to Catherine Short, Manager of the DO/EO/US at telephone number (703) 305-3620 or to Examiner Charita Burt at telephone number (703) 305-3734.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nguyễn Ngọc Hồ".

Nguyễn Ngọc-Hồ  
Paralegal Specialist  
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